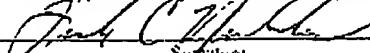


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Patent and Trademark Office APRIL 8, 2004  
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FRANK C. NICHOLAS (31983)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative  
  
Signature  
April 8, 2004  
Date of Signature

APR - 8 2004

OFFICIAL

PATENT  
Case No. PHN 17,686  
(7790/350)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
FRANK P. DERKS, ET AL )  
Serial No.: 09/689,061 )  
Filed: OCTOBER 12, 2000 )  
For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM )  
AND COMMUNICATION METHOD )  
FOR DATA MULTIPLEXING )  
Examiner: LAM, DANIEL K.  
Group Art Unit: 2667

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 8, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to a Non-Final Office action of January 8, 2004, please amend the above referenced application as follows and reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.